

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /022 R

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APPROVED BY S/PRS ROBERT L. FUNSETH
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P 300006Z AUG 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 207254 TOSEC 100337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORT, EVENING, AUGUST 29, 1975.

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS (FUNSETH)
NO. 37

1. AFTERNOON RADIO

ABC RADIO, TED KOPPEL FROM JERUSALEM: #SECRETARY KISSINGER TOLD NEWSMEN HERE IN JERUSALEM THAT HE EXPECTS THE INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO BE INITIALED EARLY NEXT WEEK. BUT THERE NOW APPEARS TO BE A POSSIBLE SNAG THAT MIGHT STAND IN THE WAY OF THE AGREEMENT BEING SIGNED. KISSINGER SAID HERE TODAY THAT THE ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS WILL HAVE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITHOUT CONGRESS HAVING AUTHORIZED THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN SURVEILLANCE TECHNICIANS IN THE MITLA AND GIDDI PASSES. THE EGYPTIANS WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT THAT BUT THE ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN

PRESSING HARD FOR THAT AMERICAN PRESENCE AND THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS HERE THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT SIGN THE AGREEMENT UNTIL AFTER CONGRESS HAS AUTHORIZED THE TECHNICIANS."

2. NEWSPAPERS -- L.A. TIMES: S/PRS UNABLE TO OBTAIN COPY TODAY.

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3. WIRES

(A) AP (SCHWEID) FROM JERUSALEM LEADS WITH HAK SAYING ISRAEL AND EGYPT WILL SIGN AGREEMENT BEFORE CONGRESS VOTES ON ASSIGNING AMERICAN CIVILIANS TO SINAI SURVEILLANCE POSTS. HAK AIMING AT HAVING PACT INITIALLED BY 2 SIDES EARLY NEXT WEEK; SIGNING COULD COME A FEW DAYS LATER; HAK SAID HE HAS NO DOUBT CONGRESS WILL APPROVE TERMS. RABIN ON ISRAELI TV SAID IT WOULD BE "EMBARRASSING" FOR ISRAEL IF CONGRESS DISAPPROVED.

(B) UPI (GROWALD) FROM JERUSALEM SAYS HAK VERY OPTIMISTIC ISRAEL AND EGYPT WILL AGREE ON PEACE SETTLEMENT AND HE IS AIMING FOR INITIALLING OF DOCUMENT EARLY NEXT WEEK. BUT NEW NOTE OF CAUTION CAME FROM EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN BASHIR, SAYING "ONE SHOULD NOT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC." HAK SAID THERE IS ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PAPERWORK TO BE DONE ON AGREEMENT AND ANNEXES BUT THESE PROGRESSING WELL.

LATER DISPATCH FROM JERUSALEM -- SAYS HAK HAD PUSHED BACK UNGA SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT TO TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY AND WILL NOT MOVE SIDE TRIPS TO SAUDI ARABIA OR JORDAN UNTIL AFTER INTERIM SETTLEMENT SEALED.

UPI FROM MOSCOW REPORTS HAK WILL BRIEF GROMYKO ON THE SHUTTLE EFFORT IN MID-SEPTEMBER AT UNGA IN NEW YORK, ACCORDING TO US OFFICIALS. GROMYKO WILL LATER GO TO WASHINGTON TO MEET PRES. FORD. OFFICIALS ALSO SAID HAK WILL PROBABLY GO TO MOSCOW IN LATE SEPTEMBER FOR DISCUSSION ON NEW SALT AGREEMENT. TWO MOSCOW TRIPS BY HAK ARE LIKELY.

(C) REUTER (NELSON) FROM JERUSALEM: U.S. OFFICIALS SAID INTERIM AGREEMENT WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL SECOND SIGNING FOLLOWING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. IMPLEMENTATION WOULD DEPEND ON CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL TO STATIONING OF AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN SINAI. SCENARIO FOR COMPLETION OF AGREEMENT INCLUDES: ISRAEL/EGYPT INITIAL PACT MONDAY OR TUESDAY; WITH SIGNING WITHIN 2 OR 3 DAYS; EGYPT AND ISRAEL THEN MEET IN GENEVA TO WORK OUT TECHNICAL PROTOCOLS; AT SAME TIME, CONGRESS VOTES ON U.S. PARTICIPATION; WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AND PROTOCOLS NEGOTIATED, THERE WOULD BE SECOND SIGNING; ISRAELI TROOPS WOULD THEN BEGIN WITHDRAWAL. IF OBSTACLES ARISE, PARTIES COULD BE IN POSITION OF WHERE AGREEMENT SIGNED BUT CAN'T BE PUT INTO EFFECT.

3. EVENING TV

(A) ABC EVENING NEWS -- REASONER: REPORTS FROM THE MIDDLE

EAST TODAY SAY EGYPT AND ISRAEL WILL PROBABLY INITIAL AND SIGN A NEW INTERIM PEACE AGREEMENT NEXT WEEK, BUT IT WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL A SECOND SIGNING THAT WOULD ALLOW FURTHER TALKS. ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT -- THAT IS, A SECOND-STAGE TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SINAI-- WILL DEPEND, OFFICIALS SAY, ON WHETHER THE US CONGRESS APPROVES THE STATIONING OF US CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS IN THE SINAI DESERT. HAK SAID TODAY HE'S OPTIMISTIC THE AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED AND THAT CONGRESS WILL GIVE ITS NEEDED APPROVAL. (NO KOPPEL)

(B) NBC NIGHTLY NEWS -- BROKAW: AMERICAN OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH HAK SAID TONIGHT THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL WILL INITIAL AND SIGN A NEW PEACE AGREEMENT NEXT WEEK. BUT THEY SAY THE AGREEMENT WON'T GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL BOTH SIDES SIGN IT FOR A SECOND TIME, PROBABLY AT THE END OF THE NEXT MONTH FOLLOWING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. HAK HAS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT CONGRESS IN THIS COUNTRY WILL APPROVE A KEY ELEMENT IN THE AGREEMENT -- THE STATIONING OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN THE SINAI DESERT. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE AGREEMENT IF CONGRESS REJECTS THAT PROVISION. (NO VALERIANI)

(C) CBS (MUDD): SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER TODAY HELD DAY-LONG TALKS WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS, AND AFTERWARDS EVERYONE AGREED THAT ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO SIGN THE NEW INTERIM TREATY AND FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE USE OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN THE SINAI. BERNARD KALB REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM.

KALB: KISSINGER SPENT FROM MID-MORNING TO SUNDOWN WITH ISRAELI LEADERS, EVERYONE AWARE THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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-- AS ONE INFORMED DIPLOMAT PUT IT -- PIVOTS ON A U.S. PRESENCE IN THE SINAI, AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL REJECTION OF SUCH A PRESENCE WOULD MEAN A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME, WITH ISRAELI SOURCES SAYING ISRAEL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SIGN A PROTOCOL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT UNLESS CONGRESS GIVES ITS ENDORSEMENT TO A U.S. PRESENCE. BUT BOTH AMERICAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT CONGRESS, WHILE PERHAPS NOT WILDLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE IDEA, WILL APPROVE SUCH A PRESENCE. KISSINGER ACCENTED THE POSITIVE TONIGHT.

(FILM CLIP) QUESTION: DO YOU EXPECT AS OF NOW THAT CONGRESS WILL APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR AN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE SINAI PASSES?

HAK: YES.

QUESTION: NUMBER TWO, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF CONGRESS DID NOT APPROVE SUCH A PROPOSAL? DO YOU EXPECT THAT ISRAEL AND EGYPT WOULD BOTH PROCEED TO SIGN THAT AGREEMENT?

HAK: I AM UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WILL SIGN THE AGREEMENT. THEN THERE IS THE QUESTION OF PROTOCOLS. BUT I EXPECT THE CONGRESS TO ACT, AND WE WILL FACE THAT ISSUE WHEN IT ARISES. (END FILM CLIP)

KALB: AN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE SINAI PASSES CAN BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO FILL THE CREDIBILITY GAP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. NEITHER SIDE TRUSTS THE OTHER, WHICH IS THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT BOTH SIDES SEE THE VALUE OF AN AMERICAN CONNECTION. HENCE, THE CONCEPT OF POSITIONING AMERICAN CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS COMPLETE WITH ELECTRONIC VISION IN THE NEW BUFFER ZONE. THEY WOULD BE EYE-WITNESSES TO WHETHER THE MILITARY ASPECT OF THE AGREEMENT WAS BEING CARRIED OUT OR VIOLATED AND BY WHOM.

HAL WALKER FROM CAPITOL HILL: THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP HERE ON CAPITOL HILL DID NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE KISSINGER PEACE PLAN WITH ENTHUSIASM. THE MATTER OF USING AMERICANS TO HELP SUPERVISE ARAB-ISRAELI BUFFER ZONES
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GOT A NEGATIVE REACTION FROM BOTH MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD FROM THE SENATE SIDE AND SPEAKER CARL ALBERT IN THE HOUSE.

MANSFIELD: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ACT AS A BUFFER IN AN AREA WHICH MIGHT GET US INVOLVED IN ANOTHER CONFLICT. I THINK THAT WE HAVE HAD TOO MANY IN RECENT YEARS AND WE OUGHT TO RECOGNIZE THAT AS A NATION WE ARE LIMITED IN MANPOWER AND LIMITED IN RESOURCES AND CANNOT AFFORD TO BE THE POLICEMAN OF THE WORLD.

ALBERT: I HATE TO SEE US SEND POLICEMEN INTO ANY AREA AT THIS TIME. WE JUST HAD THE SAD ORDEAL OF THE VIETNAM WAR. IT TOOK US A LONG TIME TO GET OUT OF IT. I'M AGAINST IT UNTIL I DO TALK TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ABOUT IT.

WALKER: KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID THEY WILL SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR ANY PART OF THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WHICH INVOLVES AMERICAN MONEY, CITIZENS OR ARMS. ON THE QUESTION OF CITIZENS THE PLAN ALREADY FACES AN IMPORTANT HURDLE IN CONGRESS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, TOSEC, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE207254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750300-0666
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975081/aaaaaaqr.tel
Line Count: 225
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <12 JAN 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELING PRESS REPORT, EVENING, AUGUST 29, 1975. FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS (FUNSETH)
TAGS: SOPN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006